



EDUCATION TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL
NOTES
December 18, 2008

AMENDED

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The December 18, 2008, meeting of the Education Telecommunications Council was held at Iowa Public Television and various ICN sites. The following members were present at the meeting: **Al Bode**, ISEA; **Greg Davis**, IASB; **Mary Gannon**, IASB; Bruce McKee for **Ellen Kabat Lensch**, IACCT; **Sally Lindgren**, AEA Boards; **Kathryn O'Shaughnessy**, ISEA; **Terry Rinehart**, IPTV; **Kay Runge**, DE/Libraries; **Gail Sullivan**, DE; **Jean Torgeson**, IACCT and **Mary Wieser**, DE/CIANS. **Jim Bodensteiner**, Regents; **Kenneth Colwell**, IAICU; **Glenn Grove**, AEA Boards; **Chet Rzonca**, Regents; and **Frank Wood**, SAI were absent. *There were 2 vacancies on the council at the time of this meeting—IAICU and SAI.*

The following guests were also present at the meeting: **Joe Cassis** and **Tami Fujinaka**, ICN; **Kathy Goebel**, Region 5 Scheduler; **Julie Thomas**, RTC 6 Coordinator; **Marcel Kielkucki**, RTC 10; **Lyneé Klaus**, RTC 11; **Linda Abel**, RTC 15; **Gwen Nagel**, Dept of Ed; and **Kathy Borlin** and **Deb Fiscus**, IPTV.

A change in membership has occurred with this meeting. Dean Cook has resigned his position as one of the SAI representatives on the council. At the time of his resignation, Dean was the chair of the ETC. A motion was made to have Greg Davis, Chair-elect, assume the Chair position left vacant by Dean's resignation.

MOTION 1

Kay Runge moved that the current chair-elect Greg Davis be made Chair of the ETC for the period of December 18, 2008, through June 2010. Terry Rinehart seconded. All in favor. Motion was passed unanimously.

Terry Rinehart was asked to be the Chair-elect for December 18, 2008 through June 2010. Terry agreed and the following motion was made.

MOTION 2

Mary Gannon moved that Terry Rinehart be nominated as Chair-elect for December 18, 2008, through June 2010. Gail Sullivan seconded. All in favor. Motion was passed unanimously.

Frank Wood was appointed by SAI to fill the vacancy left by Tim Dose.

II. ISSUES AND UPDATES

A. ICN Update

Joe Cassis of the ICN provided the following updates:

- The 2nd Annual ICN In-Toto conference held in September was very successful. However, due to the current economic crises and state budget reductions there won't be funds available for a conference in 2009. The ICN is working on a new idea for disseminating information that will be more effective.
- Operation support system—follow up on report made at the June meeting—focusing on the system requirements at this time to issue an RFP; the ICN is contemplating using SAAS (software as a service) which means that the application will reside on another server someplace in the country. This would reduce maintenance costs and the ability to keep up-to-date with the most current versions without putting a lot of man power/resources behind it. The system is to identify how to provision circuits and identify the billing process. The RFP is scheduled for release the first week of January and the vendors will have approximately 60 days to respond and demonstrate their products.
- 4 FTE positions were moved from IPTV to the ICN effective July 1, 2008. The work order system was targeted to move from IPTV to the ICN by July 1 also but has been moved and tested as of this meeting and will go live on January 15, 2009. The ICN service desk which is the trouble-shooting application that sends out requests for technicians to go out into the field has been linked up to the VOSS system. The next step is to determine how to move the classroom status portion of the Iowa Distance Learning Database (IDLD) to the ICN so they are all synchronized. Phase 2 of the VOSS enhancements will add “military” as an option under “audiences” and it has added the option to reservations under “Audience report,” and the other two we hope to have completed by early next year are to add a “remit to” for billing room fees as well as an annual cost saving report that will be generated automatically.
- Revamping current ICN web site (version 1.5) for easier navigational capabilities, with further changes expected in the spring, around the March or April timeframe.
- The K-12 Connections project was better than good—exceeding last years' hours by 2600+ hours and the number of hours so far this year are approximately 700 hours ahead of the same period last year. K-12 Connections is a collaborative effort between IPTV and the ICN. A team of educators at IPTV develops and facilitates ICN sessions to be delivered to preK-12 school systems. There are two kinds of sessions available—educator/school staff professional

development opportunities and others are designed for use in the classroom by the teacher with their students. Professional development sessions have covered food service, health and others, as well as many sessions for the classroom in science, math, English, etc.

- Three focus groups created to focus primarily on video services were held in October in Storm Lake, Des Moines, and Cedar Rapids. Overall it was to say that the ICN needs to be more aware of how the customer wants to utilize the applications.
- A survey is being created that will go out to a number of people like schedulers, RTCs, ATAC, anyone that could potentially provide information on training not related to curriculum or turning on a switch, but the utilization of the technology and how that should be conducted to facilitate usage.
- Corporate marketing has developed a new slogan and is looking at how to improve the image of the ICN and branding.
- The ICN has launched Perfect Meetings offered by AGT (Applied Global Technologies) and are now preparing it to be a methodology that will be a hybrid into Mpeg. The technology is being compromised by the broadband capabilities that a person might have and we're hoping to get accomplished in the next month or two is to bring the server that they utilize in behind the firewalls of the ICN and that will reduce the traffic congestion that impedes the quality level of any IP video production.
- ICN is looking on how to reinvent itself. A number of discussions have been held; different paper proposals received that suggest selling the ICN to reorganization of the ICN; and a strategic planning session with the ITTC was held on November 20 in Cedar Falls where Rep. Kelly, who has been a proponent in utilizing distance learning and other capabilities for Iowans, was a visitor. The U.S. is 15th in broadband accessibility and Iowa is coming in at 47th—a direct correlation for education, public safety and health.

For more information about the ICN report and the timeline involved, please contact Joseph Cassis at Joseph.Cassis@iowa.gov.

B. EOA Committee Update

Kay Runge provided the update on the EOA committee, stating that the committee had met twice in August, adopted a “charge” for the committee and set up two subcommittees.

The members of the EOA committee are: Kay Runge, chair; Greg Davis, Joe Cassis, Julie Thomas, Kathryn O'Shaughnessy, Ken Colwell, Linda Abel, Mary Wieser, Michael Stokes, Sally Lindgren, and Terry Rinehart (Dean Cook resigned). Gail Sullivan has been invited to sit in on the EOA meetings.

The following committee charge was approved as amended:

“To analyze the Education Telecommunications Council (ETC) organization, duties, and policies due to dramatic changes over the past 15 years in technology, the telecommunications market, educational methodologies, laws, and funding. This analysis will provide the ETC with recommendations on how to enhance and/or modify its duties, to address the issues identified, and to recommend changes to the legislature for consideration as authorized in Chapter 8D.5 of the State Code of Iowa.”

A subcommittee that includes Sally Lindgren, Greg Davis, Julie Thomas, and Kathy Borlin was formed to look at data collection, organizations--like ILO and other entities, state telecommunications, and accessibility. Gwen Nagel was to be invited as part of this subcommittee.

A second subcommittee that includes Joe Cassis, Terry Rinehart, Greg Davis, Tami Fujinaka (Dean Cook resigned) was formed to begin discussion on bandwidth/usage statement, DE partnership, connectivity/technology needs, and potential legislation.

No report was submitted from either subcommittee.

The full EOA committee plans to set up a meeting in January prior to the start of the 2009 legislature on January 9 and the ITTC meeting on January 15, 2009. Joe Cassis said that the ICN will be aggressively pursuing these types of concepts and has developed concept papers. The idea is to formulate some type of presentation not only for the legislature and the governor's office but for the stakeholders that have expressed support in making this accessibility throughout Iowa. It may require some legislative changes and it may require some reorganizations. ICN staff is to present a report to the ITTC at their January meeting and it would be really advantageous to have some input from the ETC/EOA or both to not only augment those kinds of concepts but show the support and the advocacy referred to in June and August. I think it is imperative especially since it is in the charge of the ETC to identify potential changes. There is also discussion in the ITTC on how the RTC funds are currently allocated and what can be done to better utilize this funding. One of the things that have become apparent is that endpoint equipment is starting to fail, reinforcing the concern about not only the equipment at these areas but also what we have to do from a network standpoint. (Terrawave is a \$5000-\$7500 piece of equipment at 750+ endpoints—millions of dollars in replacement costs.) Time wise, we don't have much time, and that's why it is imperative that we start finding out how to realign what needs to be done in the sense of the network on the application side and how to integrate this with IP video as well.

C. ETC/RTC Gender-Partisan Balance

Debbie Fiscus distributed the results of the RTC membership survey noting the current balance of gender and partisan affiliation of all RTCs and the ETC.

D. ICN Legislative Update

Tami Fujinaka stated that the ICN will be taking only one policy issue to the legislature and that deals with Part III connections as well as other state connections and the current bid process. A minor part of the bill changes the lease capacity language so it makes it a minimum of DS3 or DS1.

E. 2009 Legislative Session

Mary Gannon stated the number one item on the table will be budget requests. Due to the current state of the economy it is believed that budget requests could remain status quo but in all actuality may well be cut. Terry Rinehart mentioned that it was highly likely that funding for

RTC activities may be reduced. It was also believed that due to current economic pressures that the time is right for advocating for distance learning, IP video connection and other cost saving applications of the ICN.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The December 18, 2008, meeting of the Education Telecommunications Council was adjourned at 10:10 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the ETC will be Thursday, June 4, 2009, at Iowa Public Television.

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